



ACTS and LAWS,

Made and passed by the General Court or Assembly of the State of Connecticut, holden at Hartford, in said State, on the second Thursday of May, Anno Dom. 1788.

An Act for instituting, defining and regulating the Office of Comptroller of the public Accounts.

BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That there shall be annually appointed by the General Assembly, a Comptroller of all public accounts of this State, with power to appoint from time, to time, one Clerk, or more if necessary, to assist him in his office and duty.

Comptroller to be annually appointed.

That the said Comptroller shall have power to superintend, all matters that respect the subject of the finances of the State, and shall advise as to the mode of keeping, stating, adjusting, and liquidating the public accounts, subject to the controul, and order of the General Assembly; and shall take suitable care, that the regular, and necessary checks, in the mode of keeping accounts, be instituted and maintained, and lay before the Legislature, at the opening of each Sessions, such plans, and calculations, as in his opinion may be expedient, for lessening the public expenses, for using and improving the public monies to the best advantage, for promoting frugality and œconomy in the public expenditures, for supporting the credit of the State, and in general, for the well ordering, and regulating the business of his department.

To superintend the finances.

To lay before the Legislature plans and calculations.

And it shall, in particular, be the duty of such Comptroller, from time to time diligently to examine and state the amount of the public debts, and credits of this State with the United States, or with any community, public officer, or individual whatever; to liquidate all accounts due from this State to any person, or persons pursuant to such orders,

To state the public debts and credits of this State with the United States, &c.

To liquidate accounts. orders, as have been given to the Paytable committee, or which may be given to him by the General Assembly, to keep the proper accounts, and to draw orders on the Treasury for payment; to compute the interest annually due, on the State obligations as they shall be presented to him, by the owners of them; to make out the proper certificates of such interest accordingly, and keep the regular accounts, in such manner as heretofore has been done by the Treasury of this State according to law; to examine from time to time into the state of collection of taxes, to point out the causes of delay in such collections, with what may, in his opinion, tend to remove them; to see that the officers of government employed in that department, and in every other department of the revenue, faithfully execute their respective duties, and to report to the General Assembly all such as may appear to be chargeable with abuse of their respective trusts; to institute suits at law, in the name of this State, against any, and every person or persons, or body of men, who have received any public money, or property, by any way, or means whatsoever, and who have not regularly accounted for the same, (the collectors of State taxes only excepted) and for this purpose may employ an attorney, or attorneys under him, to sue therefor, and the same to pursue to final judgment, and execution, and the officer who shall collect the monies on such execution; and all other persons, who shall by the appointment or order of such Comptroller, receive the monies of this State, shall pay the same to the Treasurer, taking duplicate receipts therefor, and lodge one of them with the Secretary, and the other with the Comptroller.

To issue certificates for interest.

To examine into the state of public taxes, and report abuses.

To institute suits.

Further it shall be the duty of such Comptroller, to exhibit to the General Assembly in May, and October annually, and oftner if thereto required, an account of all monies received into the Treasury on taxes, with the abatements made on said taxes, on impost, and excise, for fines, forfeitures, penalties, or confiscations, or by any way or means whatever, with all debts due to this State, and from whom, and also a particular statement of the appropriation of monies received in as aforesaid.

To exhibit accounts to the General Assembly,

Books and accounts of the Pay-Table to be delivered to him.

To have access to the public officers and records.

And in order that the said Comptroller may be enabled to execute the duties of his office, all the books, accounts, vouchers, documents, and papers whatever, now appertaining to the Pay-Table Office, shall be delivered to him, as incident to his said office, and he shall have free access to the public offices of the Treasurer, and Secretary, and all other public offices, and Records with full power to examine all books and papers therein, that have relation to his said office.

Comptroller &c: to audit public accounts.

And be it further enacted, That the said Comptroller with such other person, or persons as the General Assembly may from time to time appoint, shall annually audit the public accounts with the Treasurer in such manner, as that the debts and credits may be fully known, as far as the state of the accounts from time to time, will admit, and a regular statement thereof lay before the General Assembly at their sessions in May annually.

Orders on the Treasurer to be entered on the Comptroller's books.

And be it further enacted, That no orders hereafter to be drawn up on the Treasurer, shall be paid, until the same shall be entered on the Comptroller's books, and a certificate of such entry shall by him be endorsed on such orders.

This

This Act to continue and be in force two years, from, and after the rising of this Assembly.

An Act for the encouragement of certain Manufactures within this State.

WHEREAS all due encouragement should be given to Manufactures in this State. Preamble.

BE it therefore enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That all such buildings, as shall be appropriated to, and employed in the Manufacture of Woolen Cloth, by the company lately formed in, the City of Hartford, and its vicinity, for the purpose of establishing and carrying on such Manufactory within this State, shall be, and the same are hereby exempted from any tax, or assessment for the term of five years, and that the poles of every person whatever who shall constantly labour, at said Manufactory, shall in like manner be exempted, from the list of poles, and rateable estate, for the term of two years next after the rising of this Assembly.

Buildings of the manufacturing company exempted from taxation,

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a bounty of one penny on the pound upon all woolen yarn, that shall be spun, and made into cloth, at said Manufactory, before the first day of June one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine, shall be paid to said company, or their Agent, for the use of said company out of the public Treasury of this State, upon due proof made thereof by oath, or otherwise satisfactorily to the Comptroller of public accounts in this State, who shall thereupon draw orders therefor accordingly. Bounty.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the owners of all Iron-works within this State, except slitting mills, shall be and they are hereby freed, and excused from any assessment for, or on account of such Iron-works, during the pleasure of this Assembly, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. Iron-works exempted from assessments.

An Act providing for the relief of disabled officers, soldiers, and seamen.

WHEREAS the United States in Congress assembled, by their Resolve of the seventh of June 1785, recommended to the several States to make provision for the relief of Officers, Soldiers, and Seamen, who have been disabled in the service of the United States, residing in each respective State; and whereas by means of said Resolve, it has become expedient for this State, to make provision for persons so disabled in the service of the United States, as also for persons, who have been disabled in the service of this State: Preamble.

Therefore,

BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same; That two complete lists be forthwith made out, of all persons claiming any pension, or allowance from this State, in consequence of any disability contracted in the service of the United States, or of this State. In one of which

Lists of invalids to be made out.

which lists shall be expressed, the names, pay, age, and disability of each invalid, in the service of the United States, as also the Regiment, corps, or ship to which he belonged; a copy of which shall be transmitted to the office of the Secretary at War, within one year from the rising of this Assembly, and a like copy of said descriptive list of Invalids, shall from year to year, be annually transmitted to the office of the Secretary at War; in the other of said lists shall be expressed, the names, pay, age, and disability of each Invalid, who shall receive any pension, or allowance, on account of any disability contracted while in the service of this State, as also the Regiment, corps, or ship to which he belonged, a copy of which list, as also of the list before mentioned, shall annually be laid before the General Assembly of this State.

Invalids to produce a certificate.

That no Officer, Soldier, or Seamen, shall be considered as an Invalid, or intitled to pay, unless he hath, or shall produce a certificate from the commanding Officer, or Surgeon of the Regiment, ship, corps, or company in which he served, or from a Physician, or Surgeon of a military hospital, or other good, and sufficient testimony, setting forth his disability, and particularly specifying whether such disability was contracted in the service of the United States, or of this State.

Pension to disabled officers,

That all commissioned Officers, within the above description, disabled in the service of the United States, or of this State, so as to be wholly incapable of military duty, or of obtaining a livelihood, shall be allowed a pension equal to one half of their pay respectively while in service, and all commissioned Officers as aforesaid, who shall not have been disabled in so great a degree, shall be allowed a pension, which shall correspond, with the degree of their disability, compared with that of an officer wholly disabled.

Provido.

Provided nevertheless, That no Officer disabled in the service of the United States, who shall have accepted his commutation for half pay, shall be intitled to receive any allowance, by virtue of this Act, until he shall first have returned his commutation.

Pension to disabled privates

That all non-commissioned Officers and privates within the aforesaid description, disabled in the service of the United States, or of this State, so as to be wholly incapable of military, or garrison duty, or of obtaining a livelihood by labour, shall be allowed a sum not exceeding five dollars per month, and all non-commissioned Officers, and privates as aforesaid, who shall not have been disabled in so great a degree, shall be allowed such sum as shall correspond with the degree of their disability, compared with that of a non-commissioned Officer or private wholly disabled.

Judges of the Superior Court to examine and report.

That the Judges of the Superior Court, or any two of them be, and they are hereby appointed to examine all claimants, and report whether the person producing evidence as before required, setting forth that he is an Invalid, be such in fact, and if such, to what pay he is intitled, and transmit a copy thereof to the Comptroller of accounts herein after appointed, to receive, and Record the same together with the evidence on which such Certificate was granted.

Provido.

Provided nevertheless, That in all cases, where persons have been examined, and obtained Certificates of their being Invalids in fact, and lodged

lodged such Certificates for Record agreeable to the Resolve of this Assembly passed in October, A. D. 1786—such Certificate shall be admitted as sufficient evidence thereof, unless the Judges of the Superior Court shall think proper, in any particular case to re-examine the grounds on which such Certificate may be issued, and shall revoke, and disallow the same.

That all Invalids shall annually apply themselves to some Assistant or Justice of the Peace, of the County in which they reside, and give their Affidavit agreeably to the form following. Invalids to make affidavits annually.

STATE of CONNECTICUT, ff.

Personally appeared before the authority subscribing, A. B. of said H. and made Oath that he was examined by of ap- Form,
pointed for that purpose by this State, and obtained a Certificate, or had his Certificate examined, and countersigned, setting forth that he had served in that he was disabled by and
that he now lives in the County of

That all Affidavits, drawn according to the above form, and duly dated, and authenticated by the authority taking the same, be transmitted to the Comptroller of accounts, by this Act appointed to receive, and Record the same. Affidavits to be transmitted to the Comptroller.

That the Comptroller of accounts be, and hereby is appointed to make out the lists before directed to be made, to transmit copies thereof to the Secretary at War, and the General Assembly as before directed; to receive and Record all Certificates which may be granted by the persons before appointed, and the evidence on which they were issued; to Record the Affidavits which may be taken in consequence of the provision of this Act, and to open, and keep regular accounts with all persons, who may be intitled to any pension, or allowance from this State, and draw orders on the Treasurer for the sums which may become due annually, by adjusting said pensions to the first day of February in each year, after the lists before directed to be made out, shall be completed. Comptroller to make out lists, &c.

Provided, That no person shall be entitled to any pension, or allowance from this State, in consequence of the provisions of this Act, unless his claim shall have been exhibited, and allowed, and the Certificate and evidence thereof presented for Record, in the manner before directed in this Act, within one year from the rising of this Assembly. Proviso.

And be it further enacted, That said Comptroller of accounts, be, and he is also directed to open distinct accounts with each person, intitled to receive a pension from the State, in consequence of a Resolve of Congress of the 23d of April 1782, and an Act of the General Assembly of this State predicated thereon, passed in October 1783, as also with each person intitled to a pension from this State, in consequence of an Act of this Assembly passed in May 1784, granting certain allowances, to persons disabled at New-London, and Groton, in September 1781, and drawn on the Treasurer for the sums to which each person by said Acts is respectively intitled, and that may be due in the manner before directed, charging such sums as may be paid to persons disabled, in the service of the United States, and intitled to pensions in consequence Comptroller to open accounts with pensioners.

consequence of the Resolves of Congress of the 23d of April 1782, and the 7th of June 1785, in account with the United States, in part payment of the requisitions of Congress, for specie upon this State, which have been, or which hereafter may be made.

And whereas it may in some instances happen that the persons intitled to receive pensions in consequence of the provisions of this Act, may be unable to apply the sums which may be allowed to them in a manner most conducive to their benefit.

Select men authorized, &c.

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the select-men of the several towns in this State, be, and they are hereby authorized, whenever they may judge it expedient, to appoint some discreet person to receive, and expend such monies as may be allowed to any Invalid, or pensioner residing in the respective towns, and who may need such assistance, for his use, and benefit; and a Certificate from said select-men, notifying the appointment that has been made, and an order or receipt from the person so appointed shall for any pensions or allowances, which shall be granted and allowed by this State, be good and sufficient vouchers to discharge the same.

Pensioners to be paid out of the civil list funds.

And be it further enacted, That all pensions which are, or allowances which shall be granted by this State, shall be paid out of the funds raised for the discharge of the expences of civil government, after the first of September next, and that all pensions which shall be granted in consequence of the Certificate, which may be obtained in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, shall commence from the time said pensioners are intitled to receive the same, agreeably to the several Acts of Congress, of the seventh of June 1785.

And all allowances, that are now, or hereafter shall become due to any persons, in consequence of any of the provisions of this Act, shall be paid by the Treasurer to the first day of September next, in the same way and manner, as has been heretofore practised by the Treasurer, and Committee of Pay-table.

An Act in alteration of an Act, entitled, an Act for constituting, and regulating Courts, and for appointing the times, and places for holding the same.

Times of holding County Courts in New-Haven County

BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the times for holding the County Courts in the County of New-Haven, shall for the future be as follows, viz. on the third Tuesday in March, and on the second Tuesday in November annually, any thing in said Act to the contrary notwithstanding

An Act in further addition to an Act, entitled an Act, for stating, limiting, and naming the Counties in this State.

Brookfield annexed to Fairfield county.

BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the town of Brookfield be, and the same is hereby annexed to the County of Fairfield, and that the said town of Brookfield shall appoint four Jurors annually.

An Act in addition to an Act, intituled an Act, for constituting Judges and Justices of the Peace, in this State, and for empowering, and directing them in their respective offices.

BE it enacted, by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That for the future, Judges & justices to continue in office until the 20th of June. all Judges, and Justices of the Peace, annually appointed, commissioned and sworn, shall be, and they are hereby fully authorized and empowered to exercise, and execute the office, duty, and trust, to which they are, or shall be appointed, commissioned, and sworn as mentioned in said Act, until the 20th day of June, in the year next ensuing such appointment, unless said commission be sooner revoked or suspended by Act of the General Assembly.

An Act in addition to an Act, entitled an Act, for regulating Goals, and Goalers.

BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same; That when ever any person shall hereafter be committed to, or held, or is already committed to, and held in any goal in this State, by virtue of an execution for debt, damage, fine, or cost, the Superior Court, where the judgment on which such execution issued, is rendered by said Court; and in every other case, the County Court of the County, in which such prisoner is committed, or held, may at their discretion on notifying the parties concerned, or the Attorney of the party belonging out of this State, and on due enquiry and examination, give such order to the Sheriff of the County in which such goal is, from time to time for the close confinement of such prisoners as they shall think proper, and when ever such Courts shall respectively (pursuant to the provisions of this Act) order any Sheriff, to confine any such prisoner within the walls of the prison, of which such Sheriff is keeper, it shall be the duty of such Sheriff, to conform to, and obey such order, and in case such Sheriff shall neglect, or refuse to obey such order, such neglect and refusal shall be deemed a voluntary escape in such Sheriff, and he shall thereupon, be liable, to an action, for the debt, damage, fine, or cost, for which such prisoner is committed, or held, in the same manner, as tho' such prisoner had escaped by the permission of such Sheriff.

Courts may give order for the close confinement of prisoners committed on execution.

Sheriff neglecting, liable as for an escape.

Provided nevertheless, That this Act shall not extend to any prisoner committed, or held by virtue of any execution, issued on a judgment for a sum not exceeding four pounds lawful money.

Provido.

An Act in further addition to a law of this State, entitled an Act, for collecting Rates or Taxes.

BE it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no real estate shall be liable to be sold for taxes, after a legal transfer has been made of the same, and entered for Record, or an execution, or attachment has been duly levied thereon, and lodged in the Town Clerk's Office, of that town wherein such land lies, where other estate can be found

Real estate, after a transfer &c. not liable for taxes, if other estate can be found.

found, within the limits of such town, sufficient to satisfy the same, with the legal cost arising thereon.

Not liable for taxes on a list made up after the transfer. Nor shall any real estate, which has been levied upon, or transferred as aforesaid, be liable to be sold for the payment of any taxes arising upon any list made up after such transfer, or levy.

No real estate liable for taxes more than a year after they become due. And no real estate shall be liable to be sold for payment of any future taxes, for more than one year, after such taxes become due; nor shall any real estate be liable to be sold for payment of taxes already become due, after the first day of December next, any law, usage, or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

HARTFORD:

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